

Egypt to get \$250 m. loan

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (R). — The Gulf Development Fund is to provide Egypt with a \$250-million loan to help this country offset its payments balance's deficit, it was announced here today. Under an agreement signed here today, the loan would be repaid over 10 years with a two-year grace period. Saudi Arabia's finance minister told reporters that the fund would also guarantee Egypt for another \$250-million loan from world financial institutions.

JORDAN TIMES

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Release of W. Bankers urged

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17 (R). — The mayor of Nahal, largest town in the occupied West Bank, today asked Israeli authorities to release Arab youths arrested during demonstrations over the past week. Mayor Bassam Al Shakah told reporters he had sent a letter urging the release of scores of young people arrested in protests against an eight per cent value-added tax. There are no exact figures on the number of people arrested. He also said he asked the Israelis to supply the town with fuel, which is running low.

Oil price decision splits OPEC unity

Saudi Arabia, UAE limit increase to 5%.

DOHA, Dec. 17 (Agencies). — Saudi Arabia today partially broke ranks with its OPEC partners by refusing to accept a 15 per cent increase on petroleum prices and promised to expand its own production to whatever levels the world market required. In what was seen as the gravest challenge to OPEC in the 16-year history of the organisation, Saudi Arabia said it would impose only a five per cent increase on its oil exports starting on Jan. 1.

Saudi Arabia was joined only by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in deciding to limit the increase to five per cent.

The 11 other members of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries decided to boost their prices by 10 per cent on Jan. 1 and by another five per cent on July 1.

The Saudi decision provoked anger among some other delegates at the three-day conference on oil prices, which ended here today.

The Iranian delegate, Dr. Jamshid Amouzegar, said it would be unfriendly for one OPEC member to flood the market with its oil.

Iraqi Oil Minister Tayeh Abdul Karim called the Saudi moves "harmful to OPEC".

But Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, told reporters the Saudi decision was not aimed against the other OPEC members.

"We have no aim... we decided the price of our own oil, they decided their own," he said. He also said that a price increase of above five per cent "would be harmful to the world economy" and would have caused suffering in industrialised countries such as Britain, Spain, France and Italy.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, until now has had a ceiling of 8.5 million barrels a day on its oil production.

But Sheikh Yamani said today the ceiling would be removed and "the market will decide the level of our production."

Analysts believe the Saudi production could be expanded to between 11 million and 15 million barrels a day.

The total output of the 13 OPEC states now stands at about 30 million barrels a day.

A communique issued after the meeting ended today said that the price of oil sold by the 11 countries which voted for the higher increase would stand at \$12.70 a barrel after Jan. 1, when the initial 10 per cent rise takes effect.

After July 1, when the further five per cent boost is added, the price would be \$13.30 per barrel.

The previous basic level, set 15 months ago, was \$11.51 a barrel.

The Saudi announcement of a five per cent increase would mean its oil would cost \$12.08 a barrel.

Sheikh Yamani said the five per cent increase would stand for all of 1977.

All 13 OPEC members voted unanimously today to cushion the effect of the higher prices on third World nations by doubling the organisation's special assistance fund for developing countries.

The fund will now stand at \$1.6 billion.

The official statement issued at the end of the meeting also said: "The OPEC countries are ready to contribute out of the above (\$1.6 billion fund) to the integrated fund for commodities, as they expressed at the fourth meeting of the UNCTAD in Nairobi. This would commit the stabilisation of raw material prices at an equitable and remunerative level, which is

one of the major problems from which the developing countries suffer chronically and severely."

The statement pointed out, however, that Saudi Arabia and the UAE felt aid allocation through the special fund was a matter to be decided by OPEC finance ministers. Both countries would nevertheless remain among the principal donor countries.

The statement said the ministers approved OPEC's 1977 budget and decided to hold the next regular conference of oil ministers on July 12, 1977.

They also appointed Mr. Ali Mohammad Jaidar, of Qatar, as OPEC Secretary General for a two-year period as from Jan. 1.

Both Sheikh Yamani and the UAE Oil Minister, Man' Al Oteiba, said their decision to impose only a five per cent increase

should be seen by Western nations as a move to protect the world economy.

Both said they hoped the West, in turn, would help the Arabs by renewed efforts in reaching a Middle East peace settlement.

Sheikh Yamani said before returning home aboard his private jet that he expected the West -- especially the United States -- to appreciate what Saudi Arabia had done to protect the world's economy.

He said this should be reflected in concessions to Third World demands in the north-south talks between industrialised and developing nations.

It should also be reflected in Western help to achieve a peace settlement in the Middle East, he added.

[Continued on page 6]



FIVE PER CENT — Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, surrounded by security officials, gets into his car in Doha Friday at the end of the conference of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Sheikh Yamani had delivered his country's decision to limit the increase in the price of its oil to five per cent. Only the United Arab Emirates agreed with that decision; the other 11 members of OPEC opted for a 15 per cent increase in oil prices. (AP wirephoto).

Hussein sees peace nearer in '77

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein said Friday that he is optimistic about the possibility of definite progress towards a Middle East settlement in the coming year.

King Hussein was speaking in an interview published Friday in the daily the Washington Post.

His Majesty explained that his optimism was based on a new reality which has emerged in the general Middle East situation. It was also based on several positive trends which have recently appeared in the Arab world, King Hussein said.

These developments, the King said, are also enhanced by the advent of a new United States administration, free of election-year pressures, as well as a better understanding of the Arab viewpoint in the U.S.

His Majesty said he feared that no tangible progress towards settlement occurred soon, the Arab world may lose hope and turn to the radicals for a solution.

Concerning Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, King Hussein said that he does not reject the idea of a gradual withdrawal, to be effected in stages; a condition that Israel commits itself to total withdrawal.

The King rejected the so-called Alon Plan whereby Israel would retain Jerusalem and some settlements in the Jordan Valley as a security belt as part of a peace agreement.

His Majesty said that unless Jerusalem returns to the Arabs there will be no peace with Israel. The King said that Jordan has no objections against attending

the proposed Geneva peace conference but that it insists that the Palestinians be represented there to speak for all the Palestinians.

King Hussein also said that he believes the future will see a kind of federal or confederal union in the area, in response to the will of all concerned. But, he added, we would insist that the Palestinians maintain their right to self-determination.

His Majesty said that should Jordan's efforts to regain the West Bank -- in response to Arab demand -- prove successful, we would not want the territory of the West Bank to revert to Jordan.

However, His Majesty added, if the Arabs do not request Jordan to make such an effort then we shall not be in a position to negotiate with Israel for the return of a single inch of Palestinian land.

Assad favours single Arab delegation at Geneva talks

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (R). — Syrian President Hafez Assad said tonight he preferred the Arabs to be represented by a single delegation, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), at any resumption of the Middle East peace conference in Geneva.

He was speaking in an interview with Cairo Radio broadcast tonight on the eve of a visit to Egypt.

In the interview, President Assad said however he believed Israel would not accept the formation of a single delegation.

He reassured the PLO that its incorporation in a single delegation would not mean it would not continue to be recognised as sole representative of the Palestinian people.

President Assad said he did not see an urgent need for a summit meeting between Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the PLO to coordinate

policies for the Geneva conference. He said it was up to Washington to make the Geneva conference effective. "If the U.S. does not want it to succeed, it will not succeed."

On Soviet-Arab relations, he said Moscow's attitude had helped strengthen the Arab cause. "We hope this strengthening would become more effective."

President Assad said it appeared that Israel was about to possess nuclear weapons and that the two alternatives before the Arabs were either to prevent Israel having such weapons or possessing them themselves. He said the latter alternative appeared to be the most feasible.

He said the Syrian troops in Lebanon, now forming the backbone of the Arab League's peacekeeping force there, would withdraw the moment the Lebanese authorities asked them to do so.

To discuss Mideast peace offensive

Assad, Sadat open key Cairo talks today

CAIRO, Dec. 17 (R). — Syrian President Hafez Assad arrives here tomorrow to discuss major Middle East issues with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat following reconciliation between the

two leaders at recent Arab summits.

The talks, billed as of great importance by political observers, could be of far-reaching importance for the future of peace efforts in the area.

Prior to their reconciliation in October, Syria and Egypt disagreed bitterly over Middle East questions. Damascus was particularly critical of Cairo for separately concluding last year's second disengagement agreement with Israel. While Egypt criticised Sy-

rian intervention in the Lebanese civil war.

But after the Arab summits in Riyadh and Cairo, Presidents Assad and Sadat stopped their disagreements and revived the alliance between them which was at its strongest during the October 1973 war against Israel.

Syria has not yet officially reacted to Egypt's call for a reconvening next March of the Geneva Middle East conference but observers in Cairo believe President Assad will endorse the move during his visit. It is not known how long he will be in Cairo.

The main obstacle to be overcome in the Sadat-Assad talks, the observers suggested, would be how to arrange for Palestinian representation at the conference, a move so far opposed by both Israel and the United States.

Egypt said recently that, if Israel and the U.S. persisted in their objections to a Palestinian presence, it would press for a Uni-

ted Nations Security Council meeting to debate the Middle East issue -- with the Palestinians attending.

The observers said Syria is likely to agree to such an Egyptian move.

President Assad, who will also discuss Lebanon with Mr. Sadat, will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, who will be making his first trip abroad since he was shot in an assassination attempt on Dec. 1.

In their discussions about Lebanon, Presidents Assad and Sadat will consider Israeli threats to that country's south; and prospects for the idea of establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank area and the Gaza Strip.

President Assad is expected to convey Jordan's view on the Palestinian state issue and to discuss the possibility of eventually federating the proposed state with Jordan and Syria.

[Continued on page 6]

World praises S. Arabia, UAE, criticises other OPEC members

PARIS, Dec. 17 (Agencies). — Western industrial consumer countries reacted cautiously today to the apparent split in the ranks of oil-producing countries reflected in the differentiated crude oil price increases announced in Doha, Qatar.

But there was obvious relief in leading Western capitals over the decision by dissenting Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to raise prices by five per cent, thus reducing the overall impact of the two step ten-plus-five per cent rise decided by their 11 partners in OPEC.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE supply more than one-quarter of the oil imported by the industrial countries of Western Europe and North America.

In Washington, President Ford condemned the decision of the 11 OPEC countries to raise prices by 15 per cent, declaring it irresponsible and short-sighted.

In a strongly worded statement, the president charged that the majority of members of OPEC had cited artificial economic justifications for the price rise.

They had ignored "the destructive consequences of their action," he added.

But he said: "We very much appreciate the efforts of... Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, whose sense of international responsibility and concern for the adverse impact of an oil price increase on the world economy led them to advocate restraint and to refuse to go along with the increase proposed by the others."

In New York, Mr. Cyrus Vance, the U.S. Secretary of State-designate, praised the "courageous and statesmanlike action" of Saudi Arabia and the UAE in holding down the oil price increase.

He said he and President-elect Jimmy Carter would send the two countries a message of appreciation.

Some senior Western government officials and industrialists voiced fears that the dissension among the two groups of OPEC countries might be a source of potential strains among the oil producers.

"It will be the first time the (OPEC) cartel has split, if indeed it has," Mr. Frank Zarb, head of

the U.S. Federal Energy Administration, told a New York newspaper, echoing surprise in U.S. oil industry quarters.

A former U.S. administration official known as a leading energy expert said the "two-tier" price system created a situation of instability and could not last long. Industry sources said it was bound to cause confusion on the market.

In Bonn, State Secretary for Economics Detlev Rohwedder praised "the sense of responsibility" shown by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, but said it was too early to measure the implications of the "interesting" decisions made in Doha.

The West German official, as well as experts in London's City, said it would be hard for the 11 OPEC countries to force through their 10 per cent increase on Jan. 1 if Saudi Arabia and the UAE boosted their output to meet demand for their relatively cheaper crude.

Share prices rose sharply on the London stock market in response to the news from Doha.

In Paris, the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Western industrial world's energy consumer grouping, today described the new two-tier oil price system as "a surprising development."

"I would not describe the price rises as modest," IEA Executive Director Ulf Lantze told reporters.

Several non-oil developing countries reacted with mixed feelings to the price increase. In Manila, President Ferdinand Marcos said it would add "new strains" to the Philippines balance of payments problem and the national development effort.

In Singapore, experts said the country would lose one-sixth of its present annual foreign exchange surplus, or up to \$70 million.

In Islamabad, experts said Pakistan's oil bill would be boosted by at least \$60 million from its present level of nearly \$400 million, and another \$40 to \$50 million might have to be spent on dearer essential imports from the West.

In Tokyo, government officials said the price increase would have a serious impact on the Japanese

economy, already hit by a "pause" in the recovery from the 1974-75 recession. Japan's oil bill would be boosted by \$2,000 million and imports would become dearer, they said.

In Brussels, the EEC Commission said the price rise once more showed the need for a common energy policy to be adopted by the European Economic Community.

In London, City experts said the price increase could add one or two percentage points to world inflation. Rising price levels and growing payments deficits would inevitably hamper world economic growth, which has slowed down recently, they said.

However, they said, governments should be able to cushion off these effects without difficulty, specially if the new Carter administration taking office in the United States next month gave an early boost to the American economy.

Al Hoss, Assad meet for urgent talks

BEIRUT, Dec. 17 (Agencies). — Lebanese Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss today made a fleeting, but important one-day visit to Damascus today for talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad on the "positive and continuing developments of the peace process in Lebanon," as the Syrian news agency SANA put it.

Dr. Al Hoss returned tonight and immediately drove to the presidential palace to brief President Elias Sarkis on the results of his visit.

In Damascus, informed sources said the talks were urgent and were part of a series of conferences the Syrian president was holding in preparation for his visit to Cairo tomorrow.

Meanwhile, rival groups of Palestinian commandos clashed overnight in crowded refugee camps in south Beirut and in Tripoli, Palestinian sources said.

The worst fighting was in the camps in the capital where commandos using automatic weapons and rockets attacked each other for five hours. Several deaths were reported.

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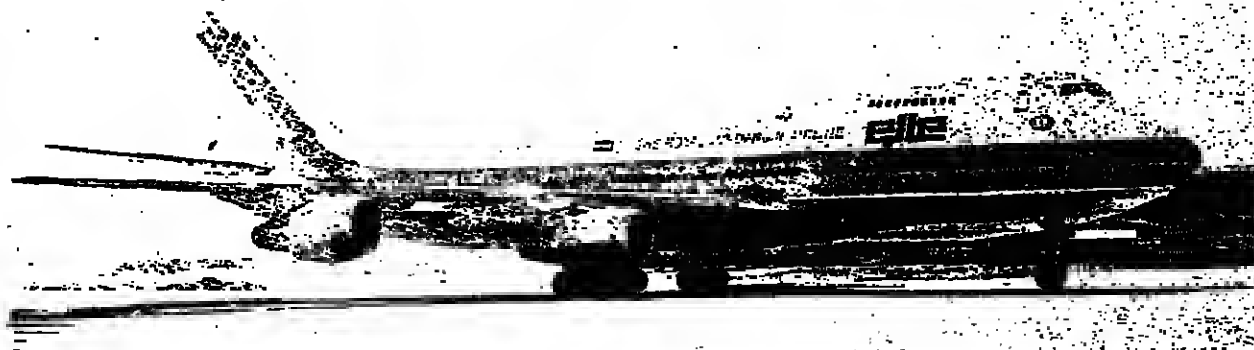
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747 jumbo jets to take Alia on to 5 continents



Boeing 747 jumbo jet plane joins Alia fleet.

By Lina Gress
Special to the Jordan Times

Proud of its newly acquired Boeing 747 jumbo jet plane, Alia (the Royal Jordanian Airlines) has organised on Friday a special inaugural flight between Amman and Aqaba.

On the occasion, Mr. Ali Gbandour, President and Chairman of Alia Board of Directors told the Jordan Times that "the 747 aircraft puts Alia side by side, on a fair competition basis with other big international carriers."

It also gives Alia the credit of highly serving the country in this highly developed aviation decade.

This 747 jumbo jet plane together with the second 747, due to arrive on Jan. 7, 1977, will enable Alia to expand its route network throughout the world.

Starting Apr. 1, Alia will open its direct flight to New York and Rio de Janeiro via Abidjan or Dakar in western Africa. In the future Alia plans to extend its flights to Buenos Aires and Santiago.

As to the Far East, the present flight to Bangkok, starting Apr. 1, will be extended to Manila and later on to Tokyo.

To cope with this outstanding expansion Alia would have to open new offices in at least 12 important cities in the United States, Canada, South America and Africa.

Alia will also have its representatives in Manila, Tokyo, Singa-

pore, Kuala Lumpur, Colombo and Sydney.

The future route envisaged for Sydney is considered to be very important in view of the large number of Arab immigrants in Australia. "Alia hopes to extend a bridge between the immigrants and their Arab native countries" Mr. Gbandour emphasized.

Mr. Gbandour said that the acquisition of the present 747 jumbo jet plane "coincides with the 13th anniversary of Alia and it also represents the will of Jordan to realise its objectives in different developmental areas."

Present aboard the 747 plane were the Premier and Mrs. Badran, a number of ministers along with their wives, Mr. Ali Gbandour, Alia top executives; representatives of the press and a number of dignitaries.

Also present were the President of Boeing Commercial Mr. E. H. Tex Bouillon and senior representatives of the Boeing aircraft industry.

A luncheon at the Aqaba Holiday Inn was hosted by the Premier Badran.

Where air transport and tourism meet and in the resort city of Aqaba. Mr. Bouillon praised the outstanding good relations existing since nine years between Alia and Boeing company.

Mr. Bouillon said that Alia first bought 707's later 727's and now two 747's, and this reflects a very good image for Boeing Commercial.

The two 747's that Alia has just bought are the most modern, and have the latest electronic equipment and electronic capability. This new model is also a combination aircraft in the sense that it can increase either the area for passengers or the cargo area depending on flight requirements, and this makes the aircraft most economic.

Traffic of goods at Aqaba Port facilitated



Premier Badran

AMMAN (JNA). — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Friday said that the Cabinet has established a number of procedures aiming at facilitating traffic of goods and solving the problems of congestion at Aqaba Port.

In an interview with Jordan News Agency, Mr. Badran said that their procedures will result in decreasing goods and food stuff prices. Loading and unloading time has been decreased for cargo ships of different capacities.

Following a special meeting with officials of Aqaba Port Authority and attended by a number of ministers, Mr. Badran said: "The new measurements, one of which is the allocation of a new yard for storage, will have a positive effect on reducing prices of goods."

The cement crisis received top priority in this meeting. The immediate unloading of this stuff will solve the crisis of cement shortage in the local market.

Work process in the JD 1.5-million floating berth has been reviewed in the meeting. The berth, expected to be completed in April, will help solve the port's problems, as its unloading capacity will be increased by 50 per cent. Another floating berth will be completed by August 1977.

Omani culture minister arrives on visit here

AMMAN (JNA). — Omani Minister of Culture and Information Fahd Al Sa'id Friday morning arrived here at an invitation extended by Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh.

During his three-day visit the Omani minister will hold talks with Mr. Abu Odeh on bilateral

relations in the field of Information. The two ministers will also discuss a variety of subjects of mutual interests.

The Omani minister will attend the first Arab ministers of culture conference which His Majesty King Hussein will open Monday.



Omani Minister of Culture and Information, Fahd Al Sa'id, (third from right) is received by Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh (first from right) and Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf (fourth from right) at Amman airport Friday. (JNA photo).

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

On the West Bank struggle against Israeli occupation, Al Sha'b Friday said all Zionist measures to subdue the people of the occupied areas have proved of no avail. Curfew, military terror, arrests, torture and economic siege around Arab towns and villages have all broken on the rock of the Arab citizens' determination to stand fast in defence of man's dignity, and Arab land and holy places in the occupied territories.

Demonstrations and strikes continued to flare up in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as in the Triangle and Galilee, despite all oppressive actions. "It is glaring proof of our people's absolute rejection of Zionist occupation with all its instruments of terror, persecution and colonisation," the paper says.

Discussing the latest moves on the Middle East crisis, Al Dustour observes that following the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for the reconvening of the Geneva peace conference by the end of March 1977, discussion on the conference has become a central point of contact and deliberation on the international plane.

preliminary talks on the resumption of Geneva.

Furthermore Dr. Kissinger has met with his successor and the two men are due to meet again Monday to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In view of this, Al Dustour says, the Arab countries should strive for an early coordination of their attitude towards the conference with a view to reaching a unified Arab position at Geneva.

"Any slowness, delay or failure to crystallise such a stand may well bring the M.E. issue back to the ice-box, and the Arab would appear before the eyes of the world as the party responsible for another deadlock -- a thing which Israel greatly desires," Al Dustour states.

U.N. Secretary General Dr. Waldheim has declared that he has begun his contacts with Dr. Kissinger and his announcement of a meeting shortly with incoming Secretary of State Cyrus Vance for our states.

A bad way to make a good point

The dramatic decision by OPEC to allow some member states to sell their oil at lower prices than other member states may turn out to be a test of exactly how viable an organisation OPEC really is. The matter will not be resolved soon, but by the third quarter of 1977 the world should have a good idea of whether or not OPEC has snuffed itself out as an entity of any impact and cohesion.

The move by Saudi Arabia and the UAE to raise their oil price by just five per cent, while the other members of OPEC will boost their oil price 15 per cent by next July, is certainly going to test the will of the OPEC member states to put aside immediate financial considerations in favour of the more serious long-term implications of maintaining OPEC as a viable example of how developing states can group together to further their common aims. The decision at Doha will effectively establish a two-tier price system within OPEC, with Saudi-UAE oil selling at roughly \$12.10 per barrel and the other OPEC states' oil selling for \$13.30 by July 1. The price difference is significant, and it is the crack in the door that the Western oil companies and governments have been so anxious to see for a long time. We can now expect them to put their foot in the door and push with all their might to try and render OPEC totally ineffective. Time will tell what happens.

The Doha decision is particularly worrying because Saudi Arabia alone has the excess capacity to immediately produce 12 million barrels of oil a day without doing anything more than pushing a few buttons. Thus if the world demand for oil increases, as it is projected to do by everybody, Saudi Arabia can meet much of the increase by its own production, and its lower price will certainly bring it many buyers. The key here seems to be how far Saudi Arabia is willing to go in increasing production and in meeting this demand, and thus inevitably hurting other OPEC states whose sales will probably have to decrease. The Saudis had set a top limit of producing an annual average of 8.5 million barrels of oil per day, but they have now set this aside. Thus they could conceivably increase production to 12 and then 15 million barrels a day if world demand calls for this.

This will bring on a very dangerous sort of competition among the Saudi-UAE group on one hand and the rest of OPEC on the other, and if it gets intense enough, it could bust open OPEC and leave it in ruins. We do not think this will happen, mainly because all the OPEC members will lose if it does, and they have gained too much from their willingness to date to work by consensus to throw it all away in a mad dash for a few extra dollars here or there.

The lessons of OPEC over the past several years have been that determination, moderation and cohesion pay off in the end, and we suspect these principles will quickly come to the mind of all OPEC members if a savage oil price war were to take place next year. We also feel that a price increase closer to the Saudi-UAE one of five per cent is very much the best option for OPEC. This would not be so much that it would hurt the fragile international economic recovery, but it would be just enough to maintain the vital principle that the price of oil is set by the oil producers themselves, in accordance with their view of world market demand. The calls for steep price increases of 20 per cent or more are untimely, unrealistic and counter-productive. The amount of extra cash that such a decision would bring in the short run is far outweighed by the potential danger of OPEC splitting up because of a price war in the long run. OPEC may now have exposed itself to this danger, though it will take a few months at least for a clearer picture to emerge. As with most other things, the reality of time and the marketplace will determine strengths and weaknesses that we can only guess at beforehand. It is a good thing that OPEC has in fact raised oil prices, because the point had to be made once again that pricing is in the hands of the producers; but we suspect that the point could have been made without the confusion and mini-confrontation that has now clouded the OPEC club.

Her Majesty Queen Ayla with the queen opening the bazaar of the voluntary associations of Amman. The occasion took place at the Young Women's Federation (YWCA) in Amman Friday afternoon under the patronage of Federation of Voluntary Associations. The opening was also attended by Minister of Labour Issam Ajjouri, and his under-secretary, (photo).

17 Arab ministers attend cultural meet

AMMAN (JNA). — Twenty-two members of the Arab cultural delegations including Arabic language and the Arabic 17 Arab ministers of culture, growing economic power, has will participate, in the first Arab de. it imperative for the world Ministers of Culture Conference, acquaint itself with this cult to be opened here Monday, the which finds itself, once again, Assistant Secretary General of the a position to resume the miss Arab Educational, Cultural and humanitarian role it had Scientific Organisation, (AECOSO), died during past centuries." As Dr. Nassereldine Assad said Friday.

The conference aims at drawing cultural policy is made more up a comprehensive Arab cultural portrait at present, as many policy and determine its role in the countries in Africa, Asia, general development, he added. "others are currently looking Dr. Assad, who was speaking to Arab countries for cultural as a JNA correspondent, stressed the tance, severed in the immed far-reaching and international im-

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency.

U.S. dollar	332.0	334.0
U.K. sterling	553.0	559.0
Swiss franc	135.6	136.2
German mark	139.3	139.7
French franc	66.7	67.0
Italian lira		
(for every 100)	38.5	38.7
Syrian pound	82.5	82.9
Lebanese pound	117.6	118.3
Saudi riyal	94.2	95.0
Iraqi dinar	950.0	960.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1150.0	1160.0
UAE dirham	83.0	84.0
Libyan dinar	715.0	725.0
Egyptian pound	462.0	480.0

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مكاتب الاموال

Carter rounds out front-line players of his administration

SAINTS, Georgia, Dec. 17 (AFP). — President-elect Jimmy Carter rounded out the list of front-line players who will be responsible for carrying out his new administration's foreign and economic policies.

Mr. Carter announced at a press conference here yesterday that he expected Rep. Young, bow-tie-wearing, who had been offered the post a good two weeks ago, to not accept until early this week, and then only after making certain conditions.

The Young and Brzezinski appointments follow that of Mr. Cyrus Vance as the next U.S. secretary of state. These three key figures in future American foreign policy come from widely differing backgrounds.

Cyrus Vance, a New England politician, has a long record of government and diplomatic service. He was President Lyndon Johnson's number two man at the Defense Department and then served as trouble-shooter on such problems as Cyprus, Korea and Vietnam.

Andrew Young, 44, will be the United States' first black chief representative at the United Nations. As soon as his name was announced, he publicly stressed U.S. responsibility for helping the black majority in Southern Africa to come to power.

A close aide to murdered civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Mr. Young was arrested 32 times during protest marches. He enjoys considerable prestige in the American black community and knows Africa well.

He said he had hesitated to accept the position until after a visit to Africa convinced him of the Third World's sense of "tremendous anticipation" and hope in the incoming Carter administration.

Zbigniew Brzezinski's career echoes in some ways that of Henry Kissinger. He was born in Poland 48 years ago, emigrated to Canada as a child, and has been an American citizen since 1958. He is an academic, connected mainly with Harvard and Columbia Universities, and is a prolific writer, particularly about the Soviet Union.

"Zbig," which some people find easier to pronounce than his full name, has been a Carter adviser since the president-elect started his drive towards the White House. He is in favour of detente.

provided it is reciprocal.

Charles Schultze is a veteran of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, as is Michael Blumenthal, who was named on Tuesday as the next secretary of the treasury.

Mr. Blumenthal won a reputation as a skilled and tenacious negotiator as the principal American spokesman in the "Kennedy round" world trade talks, and has since shown himself to be a winner in the business world at the head of the Bendix Corporation. A naturalised American, the German-born Mr. Blumenthal is 50.

Charles Schultze, who was budget director under President Johnson, is a liberal economist. He worked for the past eight years at the Brookings Institute, a leading Washington "think tank".

The other leading member of the economic team, a Georgian like Rep. Young, is Bert Lance. His appointment as Director of Management and Budget was one of the first announced by Mr. Carter.

With these three men, the Carter administration's economic policy should be characterised by a mixture of liberalism and pragmatism. They will not be inclined to erect protectionist trade walls, though they are all capable of stubbornly defending American interests.

Kissinger gets good reviews

NEW YORK, Dec. 17 (AFP). — A majority of Americans think that outgoing U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger did his job well, according to a Harris Poll issued here today.

Of 1,330 people questioned, 58 per cent were satisfied with his performance, while 33 per cent were dissatisfied and nine per cent had no opinion.

Fifty per cent said it was time to have a new secretary of state. Thirty-six per cent said it would be a loss to see Dr. Kissinger go, and 14 per cent had no opinion.

Barclays Bank embarrassed by South African bond purchase

LONDON, Dec. 17 (AFP). — British Prime Minister James Callaghan has told the House of Commons that Barclays Bank was in an embarrassing situation regarding a reported investment by its South African affiliate, Barclays-National, in South African war bonds. It was reported from Johannesburg that the South African subsidiary had bought £6.5 million worth of the defence bonds.

Answering a question in the Commons yesterday about the reported investment, Mr. Callaghan said the Bank "needs to show a considerable degree of sensitivity about this matter."

Meanwhile, the European Secretariat of the Namibian nationalist movement SWAPO (the

Italians don't take easily to most austerity measures

ROME, Dec. 17 (AFP). — Italy is often accused of living beyond its means. But it has, in fact, the most severe austerity plan in Europe.

The problem is that even if the consequences of austerity are accepted by political parties and trade unions alike, a large part of the population refuses to bow to it. They fight, by any means

at their disposal, against every price rise as it occurs. "Civil disobedience" has become almost a way of life to them.

This widespread movement, often inspired and led by extreme leftwingers, is no longer a novelty in Italy.

Visitors to Milan were recently surprised to find a movie house selling tickets at 500 lire (60 U.S. cents) instead of the usual 2,500 lire (\$3). The cinema had been taken over by militant protesters who kept it open for the general public. The usherettes wore helmets and carried clubs.

There have been widespread demonstrations against price increases in Milan, Turin, Rome and even in the smaller provincial cities. Thousands have marched through the streets demanding "popular prices", not only for their everyday basics but also for their entertainment.

Violence sometimes goes hand in hand with the demonstrations. In Milan, when the opera season opened at the Scala, hundreds of young people demonstrated outside against the high cost of seats. For several hours, the city was turned into a battlefield. Result: Eleven people injured and nearly a million dollars worth of damage. Many of the demonstrators had come from outside. Political

motivations are not always absent from these protests.

Often civil disobedience campaigns result in a bloodless victory for the protesters. In Turin, the public transport company recently raised its prices. Fiat workers crowded into the buses in the morning and refused to pay the extra fare. The bus company finally capitulated.

In the city suburbs, the extreme leftwing movement "Lotta Continua" recently encouraged tenants to refuse to pay new rent increases and gas and electricity price hikes.

The major political parties (Communist, Christian-Democrat and Socialist) sometimes step in to fight government price increase proposals. In 1975, the headquarters of these parties put out their own electricity bills at "popular prices", forcing the government to give up on an electricity price rise.

Legal means work too, protesters find.

When the telephone company (SIP) cut the services of clients who refused to pay higher bills, the consumers went to court and the judge decreed that SIP had exceeded its authority and that the price increase was illegal.

Observers in Italy sometimes wonder whether "civil disobedience" has become anchored in Italian life. The trade unions and the traditional political parties tend to minimise its importance, the extreme leftwing to exaggerate it.

As for the average Italian, he is of many minds about it. He likes to buy things on the cheap, but he is afraid of disorder. "Civil disobedience" inconveniences him less than widespread strikes do. And he likes to go to the movies for the price of a sandwich.

"But not if I have to wear a helmet," said one man thoughtfully as he viewed police and demonstrators battling in front of a cut-price Roman cinema.

A tough market to crack....

The Jordan Times advises all advertisers and advertising agencies that a special rate is now in effect for long-term insertions in "Amman Marketplace".

Details are available from the Jordan Times advertising department, which can be contacted by phone at 67171-2-3-4 between 9.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m. and 6.00-10.00 p.m.

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7:30 News bulletin	16:00 Old favourites
7:40 Morning melodies	16:30 Easy listening
8:00 Sign off	17:00 Science report
12:00 Pop session part I	17:30 Pop session part IV
13:00 News summary	18:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session part II	18:05 Varieties
14:00 News bulletin	19:00 News bulletin
14:15 Radio magazine	19:10 Music
14:30 Pop session part III	19:30 Sign off

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	8:00 Cairo (EA)	
	8:20 Dubai (Alitalia)	
	8:20 Muscat, Doha	
	8:30 Bangkok, Abu Dhabi	
	8:45 Karachi, Dubai	
	8:50 Tehran	
	9:25 Aqaba	
	11:35 Dhahran, Riyadh (SDI)	
	12:15 Beirut	
	15:00 Aleppo, Damascus	
	17:30 Frankfurt	
	19:50 London (BA)	
	20:15 Cairo	
	23:30 Jeddah	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Municipal water service (emergency)	" 37111-3
Police headquarters	" 39141
Najdah, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 37777

Cultural Centres

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British Council	" 36147-5
French Cultural Centre	" 37009
Goethe Institute	" 41983
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 44203
Amman Municipal Library	" 36111

BBC RADIO

13:15 Business and Industry	13:30 Flavour of the Fifties
14:00 News	14:09 Book Choice
14:30 Terry Wogan's LP Showcase	15:00 Radio Newsreel
15:15 Saturday Special	16:00 News; Commentary
16:15 Saturday Special	17:00 News Summary
17:02 Saturday Special	17:45 Sports Round-up
18:00 News	18:15 Radio Newsreel
18:30 Theatre of the Air	20:00 News; Commentary
20:15 International Press	20:30 1 Hear Music
21:00 Business and Industry	21:15 Opera Review
21:40 Books and Writers	22:00 News
22:09 Music Now	22:40 The Week in Wales
22:45 Sports Round-up	23:00 World News; Commentary

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6	9.15 Reportage
6.00 Quran	
6.05 Cartoons	
6.30 On we go	
7.00 Time to remember	
8.00 News in Arabic	
Channel 3	
7.30 Survival	
8.30 Arabic series	
Channel 6	
7.30 News in Hebrew	
7.45 Varieties	
8.30 Dad's army	
9.10 Saturday variety	
10.00 News in English	
10.15 Movie of the week	

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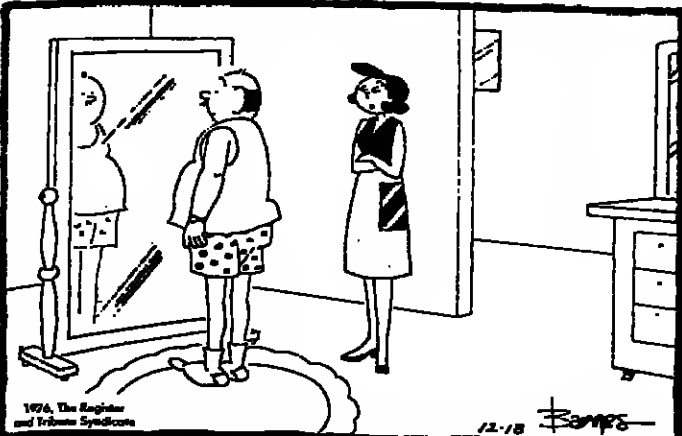
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THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



"Rest assured, you'll be asked to be Santo Claus at the office party again this year."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1976, The Chicago Tribune

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ97 7J ♠A1095 ♠A987
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1♣ 2♥ Dble. ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠96 782 ♠AKQ10 ♠QJ983
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ 2♥ 3♥ Pass
4♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠762 ♠KQJ872 ♠KJ53
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ 2♥ 3♥ 1♣
Dble. Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ9 ♠AK82 ♠743 ♠953
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ 2♥ 3♥ 1♣
Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A7 ♠K142 ♠AJ6 ♠AQ8
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass Pass 1♦
?
What action do you take?

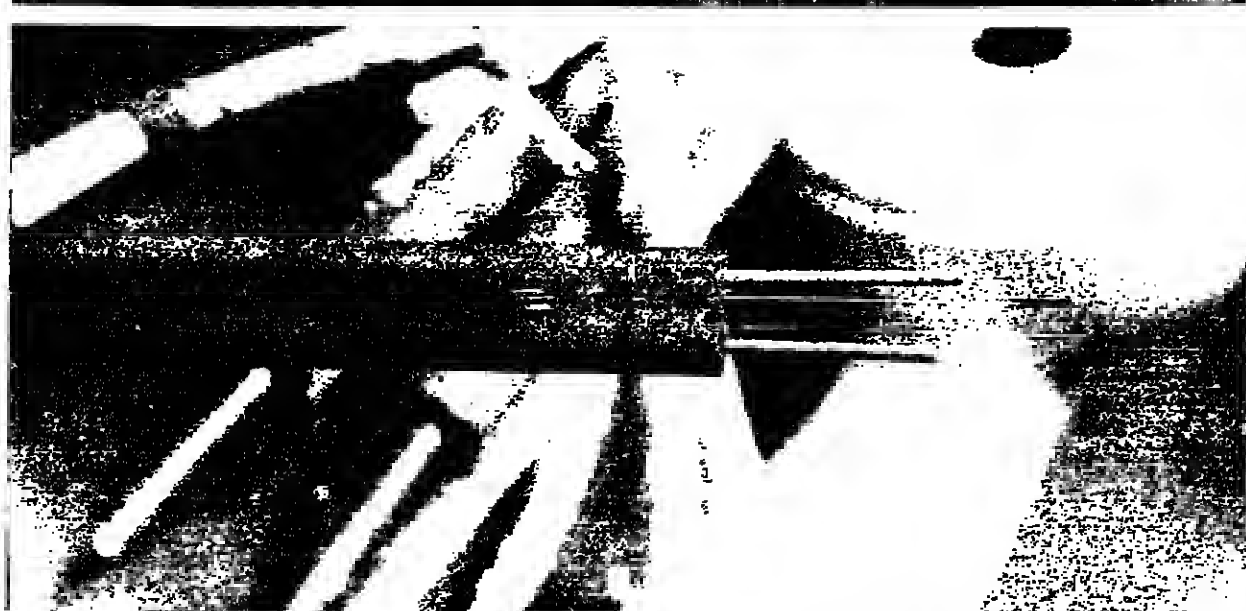
Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A1094 ♠73 ♠A8742 ♠KQ
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1♥ 2♥ 3♥ Pass
4NT 5♥ ?
What do you bid now?

Q.7—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ5 ♠AJ6 ♠KQ9 ♠10983
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
1NT Pass 2NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A87 ♠AK62 ♠8 ♠AQ762
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
?
What do you bid now?

Answers tomorrow

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



LIGHT MESSAGE—Two tiny glass cables only slightly thicker than a human hair -- which engineers hope "will carry thousands of telephone calls" when fully developed -- have been supplied to the British Post Office for assessment under commercial working conditions carrying telephone calls in eastern England. What flows through these tiny cables is not electric current but light -- which can be produced by lasers. The vital factor in the manufacture of the glass cable is the reduction of the light absorbed by the glass to a very low degree, enabling the signal to be strong and interference free.

GRAFFITI



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Harri Arnold and Bob Lee

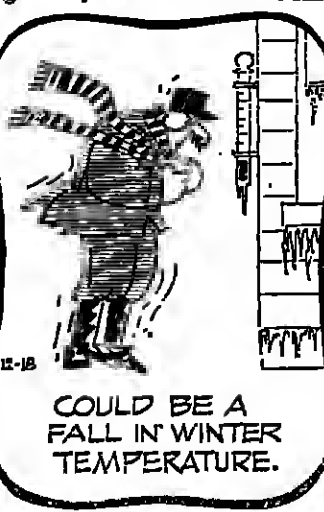
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOMOB

STRYT

TULNAW

ENGERE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print the surprise answer here: ○○○○

Yesterday's Jumbles: COUPE JOKER ROTATE INLAID
Answer: What a student parachutist sounded like—A DROPOUT

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TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

DAD'S ARMY

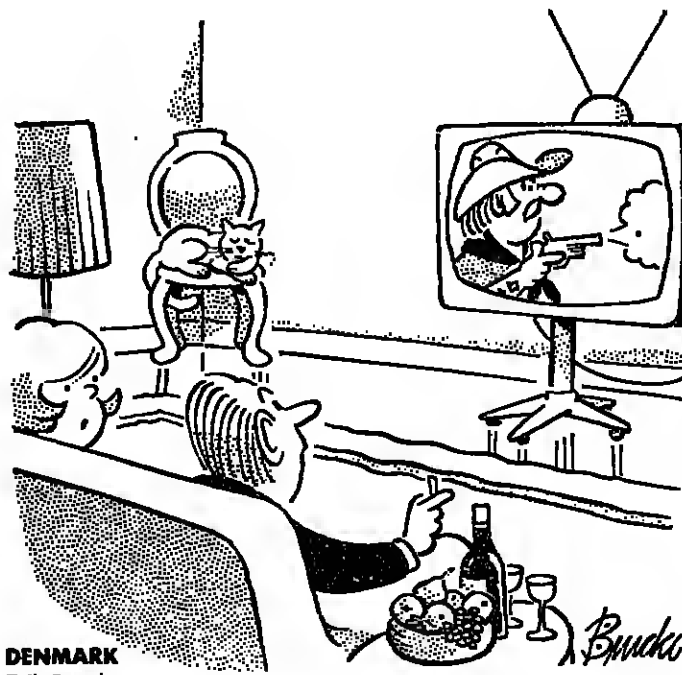
A BRUSH WITH THE LAW
Captain stands trial for having left the light on during a raid, but culprit turns out to be a different person.

MOVIE OF THE WEEK
ASSAULT ON THE WAYNE

Cast
Joseph Cotten, Lloyd Haynes

The top-secret mission of an American nuclear submarine, out to test the feasibility of converting nuclear submarines into moveable ABM sites is threatened by an ingenious plot to sabotage the mission.

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



"Considering it's the season of goodwill, he's shooting an awful lot of Indians"

Your Horoscope

By Jeane Dixon

SATURDAY, DEC. 18
Your birthday today: Take the cash and let the credit go should be a guiding factor as you learn to make maximum use of all your talents and experience to get a good job done. The middle half of the year ahead is frustrating as you scatter energy. You must stop and regroup, and back out of unproductive experiments. Today's naives are natural diplomats, may lead in religious thought and expression. Those born this year will develop firm principles, install rules and regulations, and demand orderliness of themselves and others.

Aries [March 21-April 19]: If there's a way to mix things up, someone finds it now. No point being either overserious or flippant. This isn't a time to switch sides, regardless of doubts.

Taurus [April 20-May 20]: Learn to live with confirmed differences of opinion. Exciting news comes your way and distracts you from concerns long enough to regain your poise.

Gemini [May 21-June 20]: Forget yesterday's stresses. Your health deserves the finest protection. Give friends a chance to run the show awhile. Enjoy the surprises!

Cancer [June 21-July 22]: Impulse easily leads to indiscreet moves. If you observe an enterprise come tumbling down, be bappy you stayed out of it. You've done all that's feasible.

Leo [July 23-Aug. 22]: Simple plans are challenged.

elaborate schemes fail. Friends balk, but you refuse to abandon previous commitments. Romance is on the sensitive side.

Virgo [Aug. 23-Sept. 22]: Your convictions get you into a brisk encounter, so call your shots rather than casually adopt an undefendable position. Late hours run calmer.

Libra [Sept. 23-Oct. 22]: Quasi-opportunities don't warrant borrowing or dipping into savings for cash. Collaborate with others for a possible return to educational efforts.

Scorpio [Oct. 23-Nov. 21]: You can't have your way all the time. Realize you create the major obstacles. Deeper levels of consciousness provide guidance if you listen.

Sagittarius [Nov. 22-Dec. 21]: Optimism is justified, but overdone on some topics. Forgive an error, take circumstances into account. Much as you enjoy exercise, stop short of fatigue.

Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan. 19]: Help fill the gap you find in any given field. A lot is left to attend to later, so be modest in claiming credit. Friends create confusion.

Aquarius [Jan. 20-Feb. 18]: Be skeptical of the bizarre story or the unexpected bargain. Your time is valuable. Be tactful, take no action that formally ends relationships.

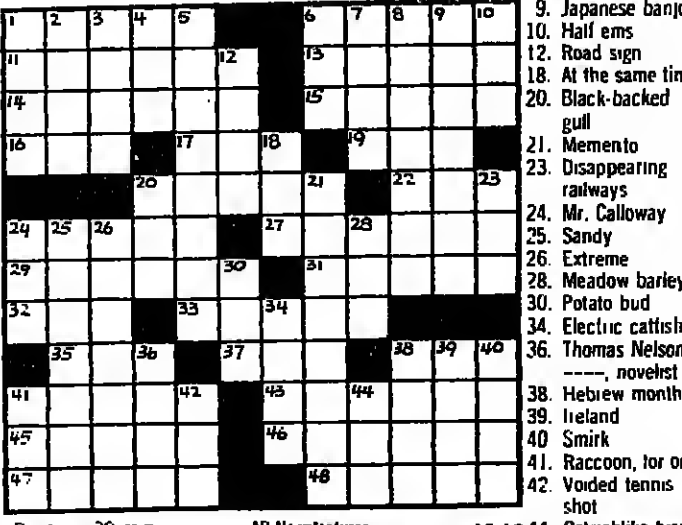
Pisces [Feb. 19-March 20]: It's hard to see what's disturbing someone you love, but keep trying. The past has repercussions according to how you use your talents.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Ruby spinel
6. Humble
11. Berry
13. 16th century dance
14. Kind of union
15. Mine cars
16. Insight
17. Geyser
19. Bombs
20. Harebrained escapade
22. Danish lord
24. St. John's bread
27. Male peregrine

POT TAG VISA
USE ARA ERL
NET PIT RILE
DAVID ESSES
ORNTS IRA
LOUT STATURE
DESERTS IRON
LAY BLAND
SCALY REEL
TAXI PIA ILL
ATEN IMU TOE
ROSE TAX EYE

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE
DOWN
3. Claim against property
4. Moreover
5. Fil
6. Clever
7. Reveal
8. Rapacity
9. Japanese banjo
10. Half ems
12. Road sign
18. At the same time
20. Black-backed gull
21. Memento
23. Disappearing railways
24. Mr. Calloway
25. Sandy
26. Extreme
28. Meadow barley
30. Potato bud
34. Electric catfish
36. Thomas Nelson
38. Hebrew month
39. Ireland
40. Smirk
41. Raccoon, for one
42. Voodoo tennis shot



Par time 30 min AP Newsfeatures 12-18-44. Ostrichlike bird

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pean specialties.

THE FLINTSTONES



MUTT AND JEFF



Disgruntled Spanish police mount angry Madrid demonstration

MADRID, Dec. 17 (AFP). — An estimated 1,000 police and civil guardsmen demonstrated here today and in one incident they punched and knocked down a top police officer.

Among demands of the demonstrators were more pay, demilitarisation of the armed police and civil guard, whose officers all come from the army, and assurances that the police would no longer be a "tool to repress the people."

Violence erupted briefly when Gen. Chicharro Lamamie de Clairac, first Deputy Inspector of Police, sallied out of the Interior Ministry to detain a demonstrator, a civil guardsman he recognised.

The hat of the inspector's uniform flew through the air as other police in civilian clothing attacked him before the eyes of the ministry's employees, crowded behind the windows. The general was taken bruised to a nearby clinic.

Police buses rolled up and disgorged a large number of helmeted police to defend the prime minister's office building a few dozen metres away.

Demonstrators greeted this security force with cries of "police-men join us" and "let the police unite."

A delegation of demonstrators was assured by a police lieutenant

colonel that their demands will be examined by Interior Minister Rodolfo Martin Villa, currently concerned with finding the kidnapped Council of State President Antonio de Maria de Oriol.

Among orators who addressed the demonstrators, one proclaimed: "We are the people in uniform, to protect the law and not to be the tool of repression of the people. We do not want to belong to any party. Our role is simply to defend the law."

There was no advance notice of the demonstration except anonymous telephone calls advising newsmen to be in front of the royal palace to see something interesting.

The disgruntled police marched from there across the city to the ministry after listening to speeches.

They complained that basic pay is only \$110 a month and that the public image of the police is bad.

Organisers warned there will be a new protest demonstration on Thursday unless they receive a satisfactory reply to their demands.

Four demonstrators reportedly were arrested during various incidents during the march. Police on duty also arrested photographers and reporters -- often at the request of demonstrators who did not want to be identified.

Syrian ports reported closed to Iraqi traffic

AMMAN, Dec. 17 (R). — Syria barred its ports to goods destined for Iraq on the day after an assassination attempt against Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, according to well-informed Arab sources.

The new restriction marks a further deterioration in relations between the Baathist regimes in Damascus and Baghdad, observers said.

The ban on transit shipments to Iraq, which has road links with Syria's Mediterranean ports, was first reported last week by an Iraqi news magazine, *Alef-Ba*.

It said ships bound for Iraq were instructed to go to Basrah or the Turkish ports of Iskenderun or Mersin.

Alef-Ba did not say when the ban began, but today's reports from non-Iraqi sources said it went into effect on Dec. 2. The sources linked it directly with the attempt on Mr. Khaddam's life.

Miki announces he will step down next week

TOKYO, Dec. 17 (Agencies). — Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Miki today announced his intention to resign, clearing the way for his bitter rival, former Deputy Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda to lead the country.

In a letter to party executives, Mr. Miki, 69, accepted responsibility for the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) setback in the Dec. 5 lower house elections, when it lost its working majority for the first time in 21 years. He will step down next week.

He said he would also resign as party president, but at the same time called for far-reaching reforms within the strife-ridden LDP to end factionalism and the stranglehold of the old guard on party affairs.

For its through reform, Mr.

Miki said, the Liberal-Democratic Party must: — do away with "money" politics.

— get to the bottom of the Lockheed payoff scandal.

— renovate the system for electing its president so that all party members can take part in it. At present, only LDP Dietmen and a delegate from each prefectural chapter are eligible to vote for the party chief.

According to one of his top aides, Mr. Miki worked out the reform plans with hopes that his successor will seriously take them up.

The remark pointed to the possibility, some observers say, that the Miki faction, small but holding a deciding vote, might bolt the party if the new leadership does not try to materialise Miki's plans.

Spanish lawyers fly to Paris to negotiate Oriol's release

MADRID, Dec. 17 (AFP). — Two Madrid lawyers flew to Paris tonight in a last-minute bid to negotiate with the extreme leftwing kidnappers of Spain's Council of State President Antonio Maria de Oriol y Urquijo only hours before the midnight deadline set by his captors.

The kidnappers meanwhile stepped up their demands by calling for the release of all Spanish political prisoners. They threatened to kill their hostage at 2200 GMT if the government refused.

The demands were contained in a new note left in a bar near the Interior Ministry in central Madrid.

The kidnappers, members of the GRAPO (Oct. 1 Revolutionary anti-fascist and Patriotic Resistance Group) have said they will kill Mr. Oriol unless the Spanish government bows tonight to their demands for the release of 15 political prisoners and their safe conduct to Algeria. The government has refused, although it is ready to make certain concessions.

The two lawyers, Juan Manuel Gonzales Berzosa, 26, and Luis

Castells, 31, have in the past defended members of the extreme leftist Partido Comunista Reconstituido. They have been asked by the government and by Senator Oriol's family to try to contact political associates of the kidnappers in France in an attempt to negotiate his release.

Spanish leftwing political leaders have been receiving death threats from rightwing militants if Senator Oriol is killed. A group calling itself the Apostolic anti-Communist Alliance of Spain has announced a "night of the long knives" if the kidnapped banker-lawyer is slain.

Rhodesian forces launch air, ground action against Mozambique

UMTALI, Rhodesia, Dec. 17 (R). — Rhodesian troops backed by air support have been involved in a day-long action inside Mozambique, informed sources in this eastern garrison town said today.

They reported the operation, which ended in the early hours this morning, began when the army was sent in "hot pursuit" of a group of nationalist guerrillas.

It was thought the Rhodesians also clashed with Mozambique Frelimo forces, the sources added.

Security forces headquarters in Salisbury said a "follow-up operation" was launched after fighting when a guerrilla base camp was discovered near the eastern border. It did not elaborate.

It said that 51 black nationalist guerrillas had been killed in this and other recent operations and that a 19-year-old white Rhodesian soldier had also died.

Residents of Umtali said heavy artillery and mortar fire could be heard in the centre of the town.

"It was so loud at one stage

that people were talking about taking to their bomb shelters," one said.

Hawker Hunter fighters and Canberra light bombers were seen flying across the border into Mozambique.

The sources said the action took place in the Burma Valley, an area of thick bush bisected by the Rhodesia-Mozambique border.

Truckloads of tired looking Rhodesian infantrymen were seen returning to their barracks.

There have been several "hot pursuit" operations by the Rhodesians, mainly from this area, over the past four months. Government officials have stated that the army reserved the right to chase guerrillas across the border if they were active inside Rhodesia.

No estimate of casualties in the action was available.

In a related development, it was announced in Gaborone, Botswana, today that Botswana is to ask for an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council to seek assistance against what it calls acts of

aggression by neighbouring Rhodesia.

The move was announced in parliament by Botswana's Vice President, Dr. Quett Masire. The decision to request a council meeting was taken by President Sir Seretse Khama, he said.

Dr. Masire said that since Botswana became independent in 1966, its territorial sovereignty had been violated more than 30 times by the Rhodesian forces.

Twelve such violations had occurred this year and they included acts of murder, arson, kidnapping and property destruction, he said.

The vice president said Rhodesian attacks were no longer directed only against Rhodesian refugees but, of late, also against swana citizens.

The Rhodesian government tried to persuade the world.

Botswana had permitted the establishment of bases from which freedom fighters could launch attacks against neighbouring countries, Dr. Masire said. These were "outrageous and deliberate" he said.

Foreign minister tells Communist Party Congress

Vietnam will expand its ties with the "developed capitalist countries"

HANOI, Dec. 17 (AFP). — Vietnam today reaffirmed its readiness to normalise relations with the United States.

The statement came from Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh presenting the main thrust of Vietnamese foreign policy to the Fourth Congress of the Workers Party here.

Mr. Trinh declared: "We resolutely oppose the policy of imperialist intervention and neo-colonialist aggression of the United States. We insist they settle the outstanding questions between Vietnam and the United States on the legal basis of the Paris agreement accepted by the two countries."

He continued, "If the United States abandons its hostile policy towards Vietnam, we are ready

to normalise relations with them."

Mr. Trinh recalled that Vietnam had already expanded its relations with countries with different political regimes and intended to continue this trend, provided the principles of independence, non-interference and mutual respect were adhered to. Vietnam had to extend its economic, cultural, scientific and technological relations with the developed capitalist countries, he said.

"One of the principles which guide our diplomatic action," he said, "is the marriage of nation, independence and socialism which are the objectives of our people at the same time they are of the epoch."

Mr. Trinh also reaffirmed the one of the unchanging elements in the policy of socialist Vietnam was working for better cohesion in the socialist camp.

Bhutto, Karamanlis call for "moderation" on Cyprus, Aegean

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 17 (AFP). — The questions of Cyprus and the Aegean featured prominently in the joint communique, which said Mr. Bhutto "expressed deep concern at the tension that had developed between Greece and Turkey on Cyprus and the Aegean Sea."

The communique was issued at the end of a four-day visit by Greek Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis, who returned to Athens today.

Informed sources said the principal aim of Mr. Karamanlis' visit might even have been to seek Mr. Bhutto's mediation between Greece and Turkey.

He went on: "He expressed a view that the causes of friction between the two countries can be eliminated by peace negotiations to be conducted in an atmosphere of goodwill and understanding."

But the communique gave no hint of any new initiative on Cyprus.

USSR to swap dissident for jailed Chilean Communist

MOSCOW, Dec. 17 (R). — The Soviet Union today appeared ready to free dissident Vladimir Bukovsky in exchange for jailed Chilean Communist leader Luis Corvalan in a deal arranged with the United States as intermediary.

Mrs. Nina Bukovsky, mother of the dissident, said she was informed of the deal by agents of the KGB security police on Tuesday. Her son is serving a seven-year sentence for anti-Soviet activities.

She told Western newsmen she would be flying with her son, daughter and grandson from Moscow to Geneva tomorrow, and that Bukovsky would be brought directly to the plane from prison just before departure.

Tonight there were strong rumours in Latin American diplomatic circles here that Corvalan, detained since the Chilean military overthrew Marxist President Salvador Allende in 1973, would arrive in the Soviet capital tomorrow.

Soviet officials declined all comment, but one semi-official source said an announcement could be expected from the government after 60-year-old Corvalan arrived.

Authoritative diplomatic sources said discussions on the release of the two men began last month with the United States acting as go-between. The Soviet Union and Chile have no diplomatic relations.

The exchange was first proposed in early October by the Copenhagen-based Sakharov Human Rights Committee, a group named after dissident Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov.

In November Chilean President Augusto Pinochet publicly accepted the proposal.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Assad, Sadat open Cairo talks

Arab diplomatic sources in political offensive in the new year Cairo said the two presidents will when Mr. Jimmy Carter takes also consider calling for an Arab over the U.S. presidency. mini summit, probably early next year, to coordinate strategy for the Geneva conference.

The Egyptian leader had dispatched his deputy, Vice President ween them in the cause of a just Husni Mubarak on visits to the peace in the Middle East and Gulf states, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and rael's withdrawal from the Sudan to rally support for a joint pied territories.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed on a strong note Friday in response to news that Saudi Arabia will limit its oil price to five put and increase oil production ceiling, dealers said. Turnover, however, was relatively light with stock shortage accentuating advances among equities. At 15:00 the F.T. index was 151.1 points up at 337.8.

Government bonds ended 1-1/8 point up among longer maturities while shorts firmed up to 7/16. The 1/4 pct lending rate reduction and the 1.4 pct rise in the retail price index were discounted, dealers added.

Oil shares moved higher. B.P. which had also met some American interest overnight jumped to 760p from 722 yesterday. Shell rose 17p.

Among industrials, ICI was the chief gained adding 15p. Distillers added about 8p among breweries in reaction to reports of an increase in the export price of spirits.

Gold shares moved lower with the bullion price. Other overseas issues were generally higher in line with the rise in the investment dollar premium.

Cavenham moved to 93 from 95 after interim profits which were below market expectations but S. and W. Berisford firmed 6p after reporting higher profits.

Price decision splits OPEC

"There must be peace in our region. The Geneva peace conference is a means to this end," he said.

Mr. Al Oteibi said he hoped the decision would prod the West to help the Arabs regain territories lost to Israel in 1967.

The statements by Sheikh Yamani and Mr. Al Oteibi were the first time that OPEC members have advanced specific political or regional interests as a reason for determining oil pricing policy.

After the meeting closed, OPEC Chairman Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Khalifeh said the disagreement over prices would not mean the disintegration of OPEC.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz, the Qatari Oil Minister, said the conference "has strengthened OPEC solidarity." He did not elaborate.

Following his return to Jeddah Sheikh Yamani said in an interview tonight that developments in Doha by no means meant that OPEC was breaking up. He was quoted by the Saudi News Agency as saying that his country had "simply wanted to exercise its sovereignty over its oil."

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